

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 41-44 are pending. Claims 7 and 15 have been cancelled, and Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 7 was previously cancelled; therefore, the rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is moot.

The term “irreversibly” has been deleted from Claims 1 and 9; therefore, the rejections of Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 8-10, 12, 14, 16, 41-43, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph are moot.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 41-43, and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,762,111 to Wendell (“Wendell”), U.S. Patent No. 4,251,198 to Altenberg (“Altenberg”) and U.S. Patent No. 5,947,805 to Van Osenbruggen (“Van Osenbruggen”). Insofar as they may be applied against the Claims, these rejections have been overcome.

Rejected independent Claims 1 and 9 as now amended more particularly recite one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present invention, namely, “sharpening at least a portion of at least *two opposite* edges of the cutting blade...and forming a *first* cutting plane *and an opposite second cutting plane*, each cutting plane being generally parallel to the plane defined by at least one face of the cutting blade holder for cutting extruded materials, *wherein the cutting direction of the first cutting plane is opposite of the cutting direction of the second cutting plane.*” (Emphasis added.) Support for this Amendment can be found on page 4, lines 11-16, among other places, of the original Application.

Neither Wendell, Altenberg, nor Van Osenbruggen teach, suggest, or disclose irreversibly bonding the cutting blades to the blade holder. Wendell discloses a cutting disc with adjustable cutting heads. Altenburg discloses a cutter hub with replaceable blades, and Van Osenbruggen describes a rotary cutting disc for use in a hand-held angle grinder. Of all of the references, Van Osenbruggen discloses a permanently affixed tooth on a grinding blade. However, Van Osenbruggen does not disclose a precision application, as discussed in greater detail below.

The present inventions of Claims 1 and 9 are specifically designed to be employed in combination with an extruder die. Within these extrusion applications, very precise and repeatable cuts are necessary. In fact, it is highly desirable to have blades secured so tightly so as to render them immobile, so that the extruder will run to failure. In fact, if one attempts to remove the cutting blade from the holder after assembly, the cutter will be effectively unusable because of the high degree of difficulty in reassembling the cutters to the holder to perform the same function due mostly

to warpage. In fact, all of the methods for securing the blades are permanent, and if one tried to remove the blades, the assembly would be destroyed. Therefore, the purpose in providing a very precise cutting plane is served by permanently bonding the cutting blades to the blade holder. Thus, the present inventions of Claims 1 and 9 provide a benefit that neither Wendell, Altenberg, nor Van Osenbruggen provide, singularly or in combination. Indeed, being adjustable, Wendell and Altenberg teach away from the claimed invention, while Van Ossenbruggen discloses a very different structure from that claimed.

Additionally, neither Wendell, Altenberg, nor Van Osenbruggen teach, suggest, or disclose sharpening opposite edges of a blade to allow for reversibility of the assembly. Wendell discloses perpendicular blades for use in milling processes, and not parallel cutting planes. Altenberg shows a blade sharpened on one side but does not include the reversibility feature included by having two cutting planes with opposite cutting directions. Van Osenbruggen teaches a grinder blade, which is not reversible. The combination of permanently affixing the cutting blades to the holder in combination with sharpening opposite sides of the blade allows for the precision, repeatable cuts with an extended life. The extended life is a result of the reversibility of the complete assembly. In other words, when the blades on one side become dull (and replacing the blades is not an option because the blades are permanently affixed), the assembly can be turned over, and the opposite sides of the blade can be utilized.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of Claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Wendell, Altenberg, and Van Osenbruggen be withdrawn and that Claims 1 and 9 be allowed.

Claims 2, 6, 8, 41, and 43 depend on and further limit amended Claim 1. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims would be deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 10, 14, 16, 42, and 44 depend on and further limit amended Claim 9. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims would be deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Wendell, Altenberg, Van Osenbruggen, and U.S. Patent No. 5,054,354 to Kubis (“Kubis”). Insofar as they may be applied against the Claims, these rejections are overcome.

Claim 4 depends on and further limits amended Claim 1. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims would be deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 12 depends on and further limits amended Claim 9. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims would be deemed to be in condition for allowance.

GOEA 01803PTUS
S/N 09/777,735

Conclusion

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 41-44.

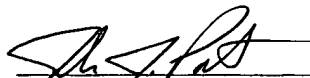
Applicant does not believe that any other fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 50-2180 of Storm LLP.

Should the Examiner require any further clarification to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Storm LLP

Dated: 1/31/06
Storm LLP
901 Main Street
Suite 7100
Dallas, Texas 75202
Telephone: (214) 347-4710
Fax: (214) 347-4799


John J. Patti
Reg. No. 57,191